

Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 USSS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0017

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7847

EXDIS

DEPT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, XF

SUBJECT: THE FOURTH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR

REF: TEL AVIV 7816 (NOTAL)

1. AS WE MOVE INTO THE THIRD DAY OF THIS WAR, I BELIEVE IT IS STILL FAIRLY CERTAIN TO SAY THAT ISRAEL IS GOING TO WIN IT.

2. TODAY IS PROBABLY THE CRITICAL DAY. IDF, WHICH MUST PUSH BACK SYRIANS BEFORE IT CAN FOCUS ON EGYPTIAN FORCES EAST OF SUEZ CANAL, FACES SERIOUS ZDS#ON THE GOLAND HEIGHTS. IF

THE CLOUDY WEATHER WHICH PREVAILS THIS MORNING SHOULD INHIBIT THE USE OF THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE TO FULL EFFECT AGAINST THE SYRIAN ARMOR, THE ISRAELI GROUND FORCES COULD HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL, SINCE MOBILIZATION STILL ONGOING AND REINFORCEMENTS ARE NOT ALL IN PLACE. AS A RESULT, THE WAR COULD LAST LONGER AND COULD COST MORE THAN WE HAD THOUGHT YESTERDAY.

3. ONE THING IS BECOMING CLEAR: ISRAELI CASUALTIES ON BOTH FRONTS ARE MOUNTING. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS FACTOR IS IMPLIED IN THE FACT THAT THE GOI IS NOT TELLING ITS PEOPLE
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ABOUT IT (NOR IS IT GIVING US HARD INFO ON THE SUBJECT). I BELIEVE THAT WHEN THE FULL IMPACT IS FELT IN ISRAEL ON THE BLOOD THIS WAR WILL HAVE COST, THE GOI'S POLITICAL OPTIONS MAY BE REDUCED: THE NATION WILL EXPECT A DECISIVE WAR OUTCOME AND A

POSTWAR SITUATION WHICH LOOKS SECURE FOR ISRAEL.

4. ANOTHER THING WHICH THE GOI IS SHIELDING ITS PUBLIC FROM IS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DIFFICULTIES THE IDF IS FACING. OBVIOUSLY THE GOI'S FIRST CONSIDERATION IN DOING SO IS THE MAINTENANCE OF MORALE. A SECONDARY CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE JORDAN: SURELY THE ISRAELIS APPRECIATE THAT JORDAN (WITH MEMORIES OF 1967) DOES NOT BELIEVE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMUNIQES AND IS MORE INCLINED TO ACCEPT THE ISRAELI VERSION AS ACCURATE. KEEPING JORDAN OUT OF THE WAR MUST BE HIGH ISRAELI PRIORITY.

5. AS SOON AS WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF HOW LONG THE WAR IS GOING TO LAST AND WHAT IT IS GOING TO COST ISRAEL, WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO JUDGE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE USG CAN USEFULLY SEEK TO GUIDE ISRAELI POLICY.
KEATING

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

SECRET

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